

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

**Alan LaMaster and
John E. Wisdo**

Serial No:

Group Art Unit:

Filed :

Examiner:

For : **VERTICALLY ORIENTED
JERKY DEHYDRATOR**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure, applicant submits patents and publications which the Examiner may find relevant to the examination of the application. Each document is listed on PTO Form 1449 (enclosed). A copy of each document is enclosed, for the sake of convenience.

The documents were developed by a preliminary search conducted by the inventors. A patentability search conducted by the undersigned attorney augmented the search conducted by the inventors.

The following comments may be of assistance to the Examiner in recognizing the patentable aspects of applicants' vertically oriented dehydrator.

The patent to Russell et al discloses a cooking appliance for heating various foods such as meats and vegetables (column 1, lines 50-63). As outlined in column 1, lines 10-15, "vertical broiling is the best method to cook meats, poultry and fish". This is because "the vertical cooking profile drains fats away from the product that is being cooked and produces a less greasy taste sensation and a healthier product". The patent shows a hinged cage 50 comprising grills or grates 51, 52 joined by hinges 53, 54. A fastener 301 functions to hold the grills together. This cage is usable in the food chamber 30 of the electrical cooking appliance 10; note column 8, lines 10-29.

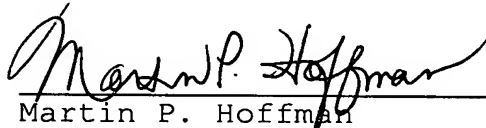
The patents to Hogan and Harrison disclose vertical cooking using a series of vertical racks placed in a drip pan. These cooking devices are usable for cooking ribs which are placed between the vertical racks as shown in Fig. 2 of Hogan and Fig.7 and column 4, lines 21-25 of Harrison.

The patents to Perez, Gaskins, Chen and Watznauer disclose other food cookers wherein the food is held vertically during cooking. Perez, Fig.1, shows a racking grid having a plurality of pins but each pin supports an individual piece of food.

The patents to Jespersen et al and Kiczko et al show vertical cooking apparatus and are cited of interest.

The publications disclose food dehydrators currently sold by leading manufacturers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martin P. Hoffman", is written over a horizontal line.

Martin P. Hoffman
Reg. 22,261
Hoffman, Wasson & Gitler, P.C.
2361 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 522
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703)415-0100

February 4, 2004

Attorney Docket No: A-8681.IDS/cat

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION*(Use several sheets if necessary)*

ATTY DOCKET NO.

A-8681

SERIAL NO.

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FILING

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | A | D 252,397 | 07/17/1979 | Cousins et al | | | |
| | B | D 318,206 | 07/16/1991 | Watznauer | | | |
| | C | D 401,468 | 11/24/1998 | Knoll et al | | | |
| | D | RE 37,955 | 01/07/2003 | Kiczko et al | | | |
| | E | 3,379,118 | 04/23/1968 | Perez | | | |
| | F | 4,152,842 | 05/08/1979 | Laughlin | | | |
| | G | 4,338,912 | 07/13/1982 | Gaskins | | | |
| | H | 4,409,743 | 10/18/1983 | Jespersen et al | | | |
| | I | 4,559,869 | 12/14/1985 | Hogan | | | |
| | J | 5,423,249 | 06/13/1995 | Meyer | | | |
| | K | 5,437,108 | 08/01/1995 | Alseth | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | "Baker Jerky Maker Kit" - www.ovenjerkymaker.com - |
| | | | "Mother's" 2 hour jerky maker - BowhuntingStore.com |

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DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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| | L | 5,440,825 | 08/15/1995 | Thompson et al | | | |
| | M | 5,562,023 | 10/08/1996 | Harrison | | | |
| | N | 5,650,085 | 07/22/1997 | Chen | | | |
| | O | 5,735,191 | 04/07/1998 | Russell et al | | | |
| | P | 5,878,508 | 03/09/1999 | Knoll et al | | | |
| | Q | 5,974,957 | 11/02/1999 | Ysen | | | |
| | R | 6,085,442 | 07/11/2000 | Erickson | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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|--|--|--|--|
| | | | News from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - August 17, 1995, CPSC, American Harvest Inc. Announce Food Dehydrator Recall |
| | | | "The Excalibur Dehydrators", Nutrition Lifestyles, www.nutritionlifestyles.com |

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|--|--|--|--|
| | | | "The Air Preserve II Dehydrator", Nutrition Lifestyles, www.nutritionlifestyles.com |
| | | | Pleasant Hill Grain Dehydrators, www.pleasanthillgrain.com |

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